Department of State A13 INCOMING TELEGRAM EXCISE

PAGE 01 LA PAZ 06246 01 OF 02 182055Z 4382
ACTION INM-05

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 AOS-00 INR-10 CIAE-00 IO-15 NSCE-00
ARA-15 NSAE-00 SSO-00 CTME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 INRE-00
OES-09 USIE-00 JUSE-00 DEAE-00 SP-02 /060 W
------------------ 022436 182117Z /73

O 182019Z OCT 82
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3491

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LA PAZ 6246

E.O. 12356: DECL: 10/18/88
TAGS: SNAR, PINT, PEPR, EAIO, PGOV, BL
SUBJ: THE NEW BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT, COCAINE CONTROL, AND USG COOPERATION

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT SILES HAS MADE REPEATED PUBLIC STATEMENTS SINCE 1980, PARTICULARLY DURING THE FIRST DAYS OF HIS GOVERNMENT, OF HIS INTENTION TO COMBAT VIGOROUSLY COCAINE TRAFFICKING; AND [redacted] THE NEW MINISTERS OF FOREIGN RELATIONS AND INTERIOR HAVE [redacted] THERE ARE CONFUSING STATEMENTS AND DIVISIONS WITHIN THE NEW GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, REGARDING HOW TO ORGANIZE THE BUREAUCRACY FOR THIS ENDEAVOR AND ON HOW TO BRING COCA PRODUCTION INTO BALANCE WITH LICIT DEMAND. THERE EXIST CONSENSUS AND A STRONG DESIRE TO MOVE RAPIDLY AGAINST BIG TRAFFICKERS, AS SHOWN BY THE SILES GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS AGAINST THE ITALIAN NARCO-TERRORIST PAGLIAI AND CURRENT COOPERATION AGAINST LUCHO ARCE, BUT EDUCATION IS REQUIRED ABOUT ERADICATION. THE SILES GOVERNMENT OFFERS A GOOD POSSIBILITY TO MOVE EFFECTIVELY ON THE NARCOTICS CONTROL FRONT [redacted]

3. PRESIDENT HERNAN SILES ZUAZO [redacted] CITED A MAGAZINE INTERVIEW IN LATE 1980 IN WHICH HE FURTHER DECLARED HIS WAR AGAINST TRAFFICKERS, AND HE PROMISED THAT ELIMINATING COCAINE TRAFFICKING WOULD BE A PRIORITY OBJECTIVE OF HIS GOVERNMENT. PRIOR TO HIS RETURN TO BOLIVIA AS PRESIDENT AND SINCE HIS INAUGURATION HE HAS MADE REPEATED PUBLIC DECLARATIONS OF HIS GOAL TO ELIMINATE TRAFFICKING. [redacted]

4. FOREIGN MINISTER MARIO VELARDE DORADO AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR MARIO ROKCAL ANTEZANA HAVE ALSO MADE PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO ACT DECISIVELY IN THIS AREA, EVEN BEFORE TAKING OFFICE. [redacted]

I HAVE HAD A SERIES OF CONVERSATIONS ON HOW THE NEW GOB MIGHT PROCEED ON COCA CONTROL AND TO WHAT EXTENT THE USG MIGHT BE ABLE TO ASSIST.

5. DESPITE THESE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE VOWS OF INTENT, THERE IS CONFUSION WITHIN THE GOB AS HOW BEST TO ORGANIZE ITSELF AND PROCEED. THE SILES GOVERNMENT HAS INHERITED A CORRUPT AND INEFFICIENT BUREAUCRACY, ESPECIALLY EXEMPLIFIED BY THE NARCOTICS CONTROL COUNCIL. [redacted]

THE MNRI (INSTITUTIONALIZED NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT - SILES' PARTY) PLACED ANAYA ON THE COUNCIL FOR TWO MONTHS IN ORDER THAT HE BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THIS AREA. ANAYA, [redacted] WILL PRESIDE OVER AN ADVISORY COUNCIL OF SUB-SECRETARIES FROM THE PERTINENT MINISTRIES TO DEVELOP AND PROPOSE POLICIES AND ACTIONS FOR COCAINE CONTROL. [redacted]

WE HAVE REPORTS THAT WHAT HE MAY WANT IS TO CARRY OUT A VIGOROUS SUSTAINED EFFORT AGAINST BIG TRAFFICKERS AND PROCESSING LABORATORIES, APPLY CONTROLS TO AVOID DIVERSION OF COCA LEAF FROM LICIT USES TO COCAINE, AND PROVIDE A DEVELOPMENT PROJECT THAT WOULD OFFER AN ALTERNATE WAY TO MAKE A LIVING TO SMALL COCA GROWERS. ON TWO PREVIOUS OCCASIONS STRONG CONTROL EFFORTS RESULTED IN A DEPRESSED COCA PRICE. MANY BOLIVIANS THEREFORE BELIEVE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS ALONE WILL DEPRESS THE PRICE OF COCA, MAKE IT RELATIVELY UNPROFITABLE, AND MOTIVATE FARMERS TO TRANSFER TO OTHER CROPS AND WORK, THUS RESULTING IN COCA PRODUCTION DECLINING TO THE LEVEL OF LICIT DEMAND. THIS WOULD ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO AVOID ERADICATION OF FARMERS' COCA FIELDS AND THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS CONCOMMITANT THEREWITH. [redacted]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY E. B. Rosati DATE 1/26/15
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☐
RELEASE DENIED ☒ in part
FA or FOI EXEMPTIONS 552(b)(1) EO 13526 1.5(c)

CONFIDENTIAL

7. THERE ARE CONSENSUS AND STRONG DESIRES WITHIN THE GOB TO APPREHEND SIG NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS. THIS IS NO DOUBT MOTIVATED NOT ONLY BY A DESIRE FOR JUSTICE AND TO CLEAN UP THE COUNTRY BUT ALSO BECAUSE NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS SUPPORTED THE GARCIA MEZA COUP THAT ABORTED SILES BEING INAUGURATED IN 1982 AND BECAUSE THE HARDLINE NARCOTICS-RELATED MILITARY OFFICERS CONTINUE TO PRESENT A THREAT TO THE SILES GOVERNMENT. THE GOB ALSO WANTS TO TRY TO REMOVE THE INTERNATIONAL STIGMA ATTACHED TO BOLIVIA BECAUSE OF COCAINE, AND TO GAIN INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT, ESPECIALLY FROM THE USG, TO COPE WITH ITS GRAVE ECONOMIC CRISIS.

8. [redacted] IMMEDIATE CREATION OF A SMALL ELITE GROUP OF POLICE OFFICERS, PERHAPS THIRTY TO BEGIN WITH, THAT WOULD WORK WITH DEA TO GO AFTER CLASS ONE NARCOTICS VIOLATORS. THE GROUP WOULD START WITH THOSE AGAINST WHOM THERE ALREADY ARE CHARGES, SUCH AS ROBERTO SUAREZ GOMEZ AND RENATO ROCA SUAREZ, AND START BUILDING CASES AGAINST OTHERS WHO ARE KNOWN TRAFFICKERS. DEA HAS ALREADY DETAILED FOUR DEA OFFICERS TDY TO BOLIVIA TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CURRENTLY PROPITIOUS SITUATION (DEA 309561).

[redacted]

9. WITH RESPECT TO CONTROL EFFORTS AND TO THE COCA ERADICATION/ DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM [redacted] IN THE MEANTIME, WE WOULD CONTINUE TO DESIGN THE AID CHAPARE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT PAPER AND TO DISCUSS WITH THE GOB THE NEED TO EFFECT CROP REDUCTION THAT WOULD BE RELATED TO IMPLEMENTING AN AID CHAPARE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

[redacted]

CCRR